

"Caha di Orgel"

"El Pequeño Maldito"

"Caha di Orgel"

'Caha d'Orgel' is a music instrument also called a "piano-orgel" that belongs to the strings, e.g. piano, instruments. It uses nearly the same mechanism as the piano except that it has a cylinder (roll).

There are two types of "Caha d' Orgel" : a single one (enkel) and a double one (double).

You need to turn the cylinder and it will make some tunes. The cylinder has approximately 7.000 to 12.000 headless nails that have to be accurately placed on the cylinder. The cylinder consists of 8 pieces of 1.5" of wood, which make a octagon.

Besides that on the left side of the cylinder you will encounter a wooden big bush called "corona." The single cylinder "corona" has 48 grooves and the double cylinder "corona" has 64 grooves.

The characteristics of the "Caha d' Orgel"

- The single cylinder
 - ❖ 8" inch in width, e.g. a waltz has 32 note measure, which means that it plays a complete song 2/3
- The double cylinder
 - ❖ 10" inch in width, e.g. it plays a waltz that has 48 note measure so that it will repeat the last part of the song.

A 'Caha d' Orgel' consists of 3 section of strings.

1. The base section consisting of 9 base tones
2. The accompaniment section consisting of 12 tones
3. The melody section consisting of 20 tones

On the island of Aruba we do have three kinds of 'Caha d' Orgel'. One with 7 songs, one with 9 songs and the rest do have 8 different songs. The first two songs are most of the time waltz, then one Joropo (a Venezuelan song), one polka or foxtrot and the rest are tumba, cumbia or calypso.

In Aruba we do have a total of 62 'caha d' orgel' where 7 are single cylinder 'caha d' orgel' and 55 double cylinder 'caha d' orgels'.

History of the 'Caha d' Orgel'

The first version.

The history of the 'caha d' orgel' as we all know it started in 1842 with Andreas Ruth, who fabricated his first cylinder piano in Waldrich, Germany. The cylinder piano became very popular in Europe. From Barcelona (Spain) and Novara (Italy) it was transported to different parts of South America, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. From that time on different local musicians started experimenting on the 'caha d' orgel' mechanisms in order to understand and begin to compose their own melodies.

The second version

The history of 'caha d' orgel goes back at the beginning of the 19-century, where Joseph Hicks (Bristol, England 1805) made the first cylinder of piano. The first version of this cylinder piano uses wood frames that contains 23 notes in order to play 8 to 10 song/pieces. From 1850 the Italians modified the cylinder piano and increased its capacity to 54 notes. They made distribution possible as well to different parts of the world. From Italy (Novara and Milan) and Spain (Barcelona) the cylinder piano went to North and South America. In the 20-century via Venezuela the 'caha d' orgel' came to the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

Person who nails the cylinder.

Aruba did not have many people who could nail the cylinders for the 'caha d' orgel'.

The ones know are:

- ◆ Rufo Wever, 8 December 1917, passed away, 30 December 1977.
- ◆ Alfonso (Buchi) Boekhoudt, 20 April 1943.
- ◆ Higenio (Pata) A. Farro, 11 Januari 1942.
- ◆ Francisco (Choncho) Boekhoudt, 12 May 1952.